

REFERENCES

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Ring-tail Possum at Midland Junction.—In recent years the Ring-tail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) has become a comparatively rare animal and it is of interest, therefore, to record the capture of a live individual at Midland Junction on February 24, 1958, by Mrs. H. Hudson. The animal first made its appearance at her home, right in the town, a fortnight previously, living on her grapes and sleeping in an old hat on the back verandah. It was a young female, still possessing its milk teeth and I estimated that it was two months out of the parental pouch. The body length was about 4½ in. and the total length about 12 in. The extremely long tail was covered dorsally with fine white fur and below was rat-like. It did not appear to use its tail, as the Brush-tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) does, for balance, but it could hang by this appendage when compelled. The body was covered with very dense black-brown fur, which was paler ventrally. It did not use its teeth for defence at any time. It fed mainly on fruit juice, bread, flowers and lettuce.

The animal is not caged and is allowed full liberty. It still (April 1959) comes when called and displays marked affection for its foster parents.

—ELIZABETH BAILEY, Nedlands.

Record of Scarlet-chested Parrot.—Although first collected in Western Australia, in the 1840s, the Scarlet-chested Parrot (*Neophema splendida*) was not again observed in the State until 1941 (*Emu*, 54: 280). Two further recent records have been published (Serventy and Whittell, *Handbook*, 1951, p. 233).

In Sept.-Oct., 1956, the writer accompanied Dr. A. R. Main, Dr. Frances Benediet and Mr. R. D. Royce on a University expedition to the Zanthus area. On Sept. 30, while driving a few miles from Coonana, a small parrot which appeared predominantly light blue, flew close to the truck. On walking through the scrub at the spot a small parrot which flew into a dead tree was flushed from dry grass. Dr. Benediet and the writer were able to approach close to the bird, a male Scarlet-chested Parrot, and watch it for some time with binoculars. The following field description was taken down: "deep blue head, scarlet from throat to breast, orangey feathers on thighs, dark green back, blue feathers in wings." As no red was seen on the bird which flew past the truck it was presumed to be a female.

The general habitat was a slope with a sparse short tree and